

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 57th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN DONALD L. HEDGES**, on January 9, 2001
at 3:05 P.M., in Room 172 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Donald L. Hedges, Chairman (R)
Rep. Linda Holden, Vice Chairman (R)
Rep. Ralph Lenhart, Vice Chairman (D)
Rep. Darrel Adams (R)
Rep. Gilda Clancy (R)
Rep. Dave Gallik (D)
Rep. Kathleen Galvin-Halcro (D)
Rep. Christopher Harris (D)
Rep. Verdell Jackson (R)
Rep. Jim Keane (D)
Rep. Holly Raser (D)
Rep. Clarice Schrupf (R)
Rep. Butch Waddill (R)
Rep. Karl Waitschies (R)
Rep. Merlin Wolery (R)

Members Excused: Rep. Norma Bixby (D)
Rep. Rick Dale (R)
Rep. Larry Lehman (R)
Rep. Frank Smith (D)

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Krista Lee Evans, Legislative Branch
Robyn Lund, Committee Secretary

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and
discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

Committee Business Summary:

This was an organizational meeting for the members of
the committee to become familiar with each other and
the purpose of the agriculture committee.

Member introduction:

Each member of the committee was asked to introduce themselves and give their background and any ties to agriculture.

Introduction to the agriculture department:

The overall purpose and goal of the agriculture department was discussed. **Representative Hedges** stated that agriculture in Montana is a billion dollar industry. The agriculture and livestock department is 95 percent self-funded, so many bills handled in this committee may be commerce related. **Rep. Hedges** referred to agriculture as being the last basic resource left and therefore a very important issue.

Introduction to future business:

A general discussion was held about HB 113, which will be heard on Thursday, January 11, 2001.

Discussion was held on an upcoming bill, LC 999, that will be heard on January 16, 2001. Reference to a court case was made, where the supreme court overturned a pending policy in the state of Montana that the owner of livestock is not responsible for the damages cause if the livestock was hit by a car. **Rep. Harris, Rep. Schrumpf,** and **Rep. Gallik** requested copies of the court case.

Introduction to committee rules:

Legislative staffer Krista Lee Evans passed out three handouts dealing with rules on how business in the AGH committee will be conducted.

EXHIBIT (agh06a01)

EXHIBIT (agh06a02)

EXHIBIT (agh06a03)

General discussion was held about how this committee will conduct itself.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 3:37 P.M.

REP. DONALD L. HEDGES, Chairman

ROBYN LUND, Secretary

DH/RL

EXHIBIT (agh06aad)